Impacts of plastic packing of foodgrains

925. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted any research study on the effects of plastic as a packaging material for foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the study also included packaging of foodgrains and any poisoning effect in plastic sacks for long durations under different climatic and weather conditions;

(c) what was the in depth analysis of any such study conducted by Government; and

(d) whether Government openly state that there would be no poisoning of foodgrains due to plastic without conducting such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government had asked the Indian Grain Storage Management & Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur, which is a Government of India institution to conduct a study on the suitability of PP-HDPE bags for the storage of foodgrains. Though the study did not specifically include the poisoning effect of plastic sacks on foodgrains due to prolonged storage under different climatic and weather conditions, based on the study, it has been observed that PP/HDPE bags are suitable for the storage of foodgrains in commercial godowns.

(d) The Directorate General of Health Services has informed that plastic bags manufactured out of the plastic packaging materials enlisted under PFA Rules, 1955 are safe to pack foodgrains and sugar.

Additional storage facilities during Tenth Plan

926. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the storage capacity created by Government in every State during the Ninth Plan;